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New web tool helps track military performance reports

by Jill Bohn, AFRL Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio - Faced with the responsibility of managing a large volume of military performance reports and decorations, Air Force Research Laboratory's Human Resources Directorate, in conjunction with the contractor development team of SAI, has designed a web-based tool to make the process more timely and accurate.

The project, entitled Personnel Tracking and Information (PTI) System, supports customers who manage career-impacting documents for 1,200 of AFRL's enlisted and officer personnel.

The large volume of reports and decorations, combined with two successive consolidations of 10 laboratories into one, created numerous difficulties reconciling multiple processes with multiple stand-alone database applications at multiple locations.

"By eliminating defects and maximizing product efficiency they saved our customers many pains, resulting in quick acceptance and reduced customer support tasks," PTI project manager Capt. Dean Cherer said of the development team.

PTI's design incorporates a web enabled "spoke and hub" architecture that provides secure access to a central server. This allows for users to have end-to-end visibility into the status of any document being tracked in the system, and those who make inputs to the system to have access 24 hours a day to keep their data current. PTI uses the Air Force master database as its source for automatic updating of other personnel data in the system.

Performance reports and decoration packages can be located instantaneously using the PTI system. Built-in flags are used to alert users of late or deficient documents, while inefficient or inadequate processes can be more readily located and improved. The design demonstrates versatility by allowing each directorate to customize for their individual mission requirements.

"This system allows me to quickly assess my suspenses and keeps me updated as to where the reports are physically," said 1st Lt. Ivan Acosta, Squadron Section Commander for AFRL's Propulsion Directorate West at Edwards AFB.



WEB TOOL — AFRL Executive Officer Lt. Rodrick Koch (front) keys in data using the newly designed Personnel Tracking Information System, while PTI project manager Capt. Dean Cherer oversees its operations.

SSgt. Sonya Smith, NCO in charge of the Commander's Support Staff at Kirtland AFB's Phillips Research Site uses PTI from an orderly room perspective and considers it to be "a welcome improvement."

"I can get the location of any report without having to call the tech directorate," said Smith. "This speeds up my response time when the status of a report is needed."

Another benefit of PTI is the ability to develop and report metrics on how the organization is accomplishing the reports and packages. Metrics can also be customized to analyze trends in certain areas as needed by AFRL senior leadership.

Additional program updates are being considered, to include enhanced personnel data like date of rank, level of professional education, and emergency contact data. @

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